

Saturday, June 17, 1911

The Passing of Diaz.

(Guardalajara Times)

A man on horseback rode into the City of Mexico one day in November almost thirty-five years ago, and people thronged their housetops, the streets and the plazas to cheer for him. The same man, now 81 years old, white-haired and bowed in humiliation, left the City of Mexico at daylight a few mornings ago and fled to Veracruz, the same city from which he set out on his triumphal march that November day in 1876. From Veracruz he sailed Wednesday for the old Continent. His is the tragedy of the leader who has lived too long. The man's name is Porfirio Diaz. Today there is a new man on horseback in Mexico, whose appearance rouses the same wild "vivas" that greeted Diaz thirty-five years ago.

While President Diaz did really rule, he did also really serve. His service ended years ago—except that the fruits of it continued to grow in spite of him. The old statesman was outgrown. The ancient disease of autocrats—the bad counsel of favorites—destroyed his usefulness. He did not realize that the very agencies of modern progress which he had patriotically fostered made the old feudal privileges impossible. Schools and at least the principle of a free ballot Porfirio Diaz had established. He had fine visions of his country's greatness. He encouraged material development. He let into the country and favored foreigners—Americans especially—who were accustomed to democracy and talked it. All these things conspired against the evils of his reign—advisedly, "his reign." In the perspective of history Diaz will stand not only as an indubitably great man but as a good man. Not

good in the individual sense. His toric development pays little heed to that. But good in the sense of advancing the progress of the race.

It is significant of this, that the revolution which forced President Diaz to resign was of a very different character from that which placed Diaz in power. After all it was pretty nearly a peaceful revolution which overthrew the late Mexican government. The phenomenon was noted, and at first marveled at, that with serious fighting going on in only a remote province, the government at the center was impotent and trembling. In finally collapsed under apparent disasters which did not equal altogether the burning of Bangor, Maine, and the casualties of three months on American railways.

The real disaster was the state of public opinion. Potential armed force in opposition throughout all the country there undoubtedly was. But public opinion so strong and so general that it did not need to take up many arms to put out the soldiers who had helped take Mexico from France—and had gradually turned it over to the privileged few.

Trains to Mazatlan.

The Southern Pacific of Mexico has completed temporary repairs in its roadbed all the way to Mazatlan, and trains have resumed running from Nogales through to the Sinaloa metropolis. But the repairs are temporary only, and upon the south end trains have to run very slowly, with the result that there are vexatious delays and missed connections. As the work is continued and the roadbed becomes safer the time will be improved, and within a few weeks the regular schedule will be maintained.

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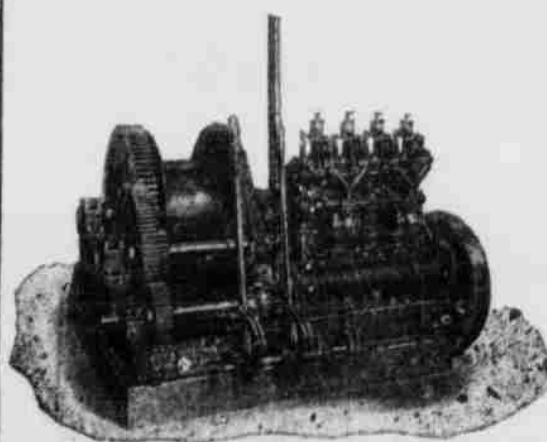
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